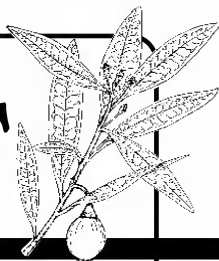


The BAY LEAF

March 2001



California Native Plant Society • East Bay Chapter • Alameda & Contra Costa Counties

Calendar of Events

March 3, SATURDAY:

- Plant restoration at Arrowhead Marsh (back page).

March 6, 13, 20, and 27, TUESDAYS:

- Plant sale work sessions for the Fall 2001 plant sale (see p. 2).

March 7, WEDNESDAY:

- Board of Directors' meeting at the home of Charli Daniels, 10 Kerr Ave., Kensington. 7:30 p.m. All members welcome.

March 10, SATURDAY:

- Deadline for April Bay Leaf. Give items to Brett Boltz or Joe Willingham.

March 11, SUNDAY:

- Field trip to Garin Regional Park (see p. 3).

March 11, SUNDAY:

- Field trip to Pulgas Ridge (see p. 3).

March 25, SUNDAY:

- Field trip to Del Valle Regional Park (see p. 3).

March 28, WEDNESDAY:

- Membership meeting (see below).

April 4, WEDNESDAY:

- Board of Directors' meeting at the home of Delia Taylor, 1851 Catalina Ave., Berkeley. 7:30 p.m.

April 7 or 14, SATURDAY:

- Combination field trip/rare plant survey at Antioch Dunes (see p. 3).

April 8, SUNDAY:

- Field trip to Morgan Territory (see p. 3).

April 28-29, SATURDAY-SUNDAY:

- Field trip to New Idria (see p. 3).

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 28 ♦ 7:30 p.m.

The War Against Invasive Weeds in the East Bay

Speaker: Bob Case

"The aliens have landed and the battle is on in the bush. T-shirt graphic or fact? Both! There is no doubt that invasive, noxious weeds are as great a threat to California's native vegetation as asphalt and the bulldozer. In 1998, CNPS and 24 other public and private agencies and organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding that formed the Alameda/Contra Costa Weed Management Area to help fight this threat in the two counties. Senate Bill 1740, signed by Governor Davis, has provided the first funding for an Integrated Weed Management Plan that includes both biological and cultural control methods. The plan will also provide plenty of room for weed-bashing volunteers and revegetation efforts. Bob Case, Integrated Pest Management Coordinator for the Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture, will present the most current information on the fight against invasive weeds in the East Bay. Come learn about and discuss this topic so important to us all.

Bob Case is a life long Bay Area resident. He holds a Master's degree in ecology and systematics from San Francisco State University and has taught classes in biology, ecology, and natural history for many Bay Area colleges over the last thirty years. In his role with the Department of Agriculture, he gives frequent presentations on integrated pest management, invasive species, and current agricultural topics. He is also an accomplished wildflower photographer whose images are posted on the state CNPS website photo gallery.

The meeting will take place in the Conference Center of the University of California Botanical Garden on Centennial Drive, east of Memorial Stadium, above the main campus of the University of California in Berkeley. The Garden gate will open at 7 p.m. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the meeting. CNPS books and other publications will be on display and available for purchase. Please contact Holly Forbes, 234-2913, if you have any questions.

Too Much To Dream?

Sometimes, instead of driving to one of the many wonderful open spaces that make the East Bay such a special place, I just start walking from my house in north Berkeley. Wending my way through the maze of winding roads and cryptic pathways of the Berkeley Hills, I stumble across a multitude of charming "pocket parks": John Hinkel, Mortar Rock, Remillard, Cragmont Rock, and others. Each contain portions left in a semi-natural condition, with an overstory of coast live oak, bay, and buckeye, enough to convince the average park user that these "pocket parks" preserve a remnant of the Berkeley Hills otherwise vanished flora.

A quick examination of the understory, however, tells a very different story. Where once occurred a rich mix of native grasses, wildflowers, and understory shrubs, the parks have been almost completely taken over by Algerian ivy (*Hedera canariensis*), "scatter grass" (*Ehrharta erecta*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), cotoneaster, and other non-natives. Scattered individual species persist only in rare toeholds, scattered among the remnant parks and undeveloped lots of the Berkeley Hills. Here a small patch of polypody, there a few lingering plants of dudleya, even miner's lettuce (*Claytonia perfoliata*) qualifying as an exciting find. Long gone, however, is the enigmatic population of *Arctostaphylos tomentosa* ssp. *rosei* once documented from Indian Rock Park, where climbers' chalk, broken bottles, and a few tough non-natives are now all that complement the fantastic vista.

Of course, all of these species can still be found in abundance elsewhere, most simply by crossing the ridge into Tilden Regional Park. However, as any East Bay gardener knows all too well, the San Francisco Bay Area is a hodge-podge of microclimates and geology. It only makes sense to assume that populations of the original flora had been fine-tuned by the microclimate and geology of a particular site, generation after uncoun- ted generation. As a result, it is quite possible that, say, miner's lettuce from the Berkeley Hills is subtly different genetically from that in Wildcat Canyon, which might in turn differ from that on Mount Diablo. If so, then yet one more tiny increment of nature's diversity will be lost forever when the last plants of miner's lettuce in the Berkeley Hills disappear under ivy and ehrharta.

Such a loss may seem petty compared to the avalanche of other problems facing us, but the current mass extinction going on, in our midst, is not so much of entire species, but rather at the level of intraspecific variation. We all take for granted the wonderful intraspecific diversity of *Homo sapiens*, and depend heavily on genetic variation in the development of cultivated and domesticated species; why should we expect any less on nature's palette? We think a species is in good shape if several viable populations have been preserved; would

we say the same of *Homo sapiens* if only Japan and England were set aside, and the rest of the planet converted into condominiums for invaders from outer space?

Such a fanciful extrapolation is, of course, well beyond what any of us have to deal with, let alone do anything about. The miner's lettuce, on the other hand, is here and now, and I have already salvaged some plants from a weed-threatened roadside in the Berkeley Hills. They have given rise to a small colony in my back yard, along a living stretch of Blackberry Creek sheltered by an enormous bay tree that is older than the house. I like to think that I am creating a refuge for local genotypes, adding manroot, buckeye, wood rose, and representatives of whatever other remnant populations I stumble across. A small effort, of little value by itself. But it's the accumulation of small efforts that add up, just as it's the accumulation of incremental losses that cause the greatest devastation.

With this thought in mind, a larger dream occurs to me every time I pass by one of Berkeley's "pocket parks." Wouldn't it be wonderful if caring groups of people worked together to make their neighborhood park a true refugium for the remnants of the local flora, not just in the Berkeley Hills but in neighborhoods throughout the Bay Area? If they not only made a habit of removing the ivy and other invasive non-natives, but also sleuthed out whatever remnant species might be found in the neighborhood for use in restoration planting? A slow process, undoubtedly, but wouldn't this be a satisfying group effort, all the more rewarding as a long-term personal involvement in the saving of a piece of nature's diversity, in the healing of a Place? Ah, if it weren't only a dream . . .

Plant Sale Activities



Work sessions this month:
Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 27
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Merritt College Landscape Horticulture area.

Volunteers will be busy this month, and anyone may join in the fun at any time. As the days warm up, plants growing in small containers need to move up to larger ones. In the greenhouse are cuttings rooted in perlite mix, ready for the move to soil. Sprouting weeds are competing for our attention... Extra hands are always welcome.

The campus parking fee is 2 quarters for the machine outside the gate. Bring your lunch if you can stay through the noon break. For more information call (925) 376-4095.

. . . Shirley McPheeters

Field Trips



Sunday, March 11: **Garin Regional Park Beginner's Wildflower Walk** in Hayward. Our leisurely ramble will begin at 10 a.m. from the Garin Visitor Center, and travel about 4 miles looking at the early spring flora. Garin is in the southern part of the Bay hills section, and supports grassland, riparian, and oak woodlands. Join us for all or part of this hike. We will be compiling a checklist of observations in support of the next edition of the *Annotated Checklist of the East Bay Flora*. Bring water, lunch, and (optionally) your EB checklist! For details or to obtain checklists, contact Tony Morosco at tony-morosco@calflora.org or 528-5426. Heavy rain cancels. *Directions:* From I-880 south of Hayward, take Industrial Parkway East to Mission Blvd. (Hwy. 238). Turn right at Mission and travel 1/4 mile. Turn left on Garin Ave. and follow it uphill 3/4 mile to the entrance of Garin and Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Parks. Vehicle entrance fee is \$4. Dog Fee: \$1. Public Transit: From South Hayward BART: take AC Transit bus 21 to Mission and Garin Avenue. Bus runs hourly on Sundays.



Sunday, March 11: There will be a field trip with Dan Norris and Mary Simpson of Santa Clara CNPS to the mosses and liverworts (bryophytes) at **Pulgas Ridge** in San Mateo County starting at 10 a.m. The trail starts out through a blue oak woodland at the bottom of a canyon, climbs to a chaparral area at the top of the ridge, and then descends to the end of the 3-mile round trip in mixed oak woodland. There is a moderate elevation gain, so participants should bring ample water. *Directions:* From the East Bay, take I-880 east to 92 and the San Mateo Bridge. Continue east on 92 in San Mateo County until it intersects with I-280. Take I-280 south to the Edgewood Road exit. On Edgewood Road, go 0.75 miles northeast towards San Carlos and Redwood City. Turn left (north) onto Crestview Drive and then immediately turn left on Edmonds Road. Limited roadside parking is available along Crestview Drive and Edmonds Road. No water or bathrooms are at the trailhead; be prepared.



Sunday, March 25: **Del Valle Regional Park Hike**. Join Tony Morosco for an informal survey and ramble on the south end of Lake Del Valle Park in southern Alameda County. Distance hiked will depend on the ambition of the group. Meet at the Rocky Ridge Visitor Center at 10:30 a.m. Bring water, lunch and (optionally) your EB checklist. For details or to obtain checklists, contact Tony Morosco at tony-morosco@calflora.org or 510 528-5426. Heavy rain cancels. *Directions:* From I-580 in Livermore, take Vasco Road exit south 3 miles to Tesla Road. Turn right on Tesla Road about 1 mile to Mines Road and turn left. Travel south on Mines Road about 5 miles to Del Valle Road and turn right. The park entrance is about four miles ahead. Visitor Center is about 3/4 mile past the

park entrance on the southeast shore of the lake. Vehicle entrance fee is \$4. Dog Fee: \$1.



There will be a **combination field trip/rare plant survey at Antioch Dunes** on April 7 and/or 14. Participants will be asked to help with plant counts, mapping, filling out of documentation forms, making plant lists, etc., while they enjoy the flora. People familiar with East Bay flora are also needed to help with plant identification. Look for directions and more information in the *April Bay Leaf* or the Chapter website.



Sunday, April 8: Chris Thayer will resume his ongoing botanical exploration field trips in the East Bay with a hike in **Morgan Territory Regional Preserve**. Meet at 10 a.m. in the main parking lot. This will be a moderately paced hike to observe spring wildflowers and chaparral and oak woodland communities. We should also see some wonderful vistas of Los Vaqueros watershed. The walk should last for approximately four hours, so bring lunch, liquids, sturdy boots and layers for cold and/or rain. Be prepared for muddy trails. Heavy rain cancels. *Directions:* From the south—take I-580 to North Livermore Ave. exit in Livermore. Proceed north on North Livermore about 5 miles. Shortly after a sharp bend to the west, turn right on Morgan Territory Rd. Proceed on that somewhat narrow road 6 miles to the main staging area on the east side of the road (there is a sign). From the north—take Ygnacio Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek from I-680; turn right on Clayton Rd. and pass through the small town of Clayton. The road soon becomes Marsh Creek Rd. After 3-4 miles take a right onto Morgan Territory Rd. and proceed 9-10 miles to the staging area on the east side of the road. Note that Morgan Territory Rd. is a very narrow, windy road, so allow plenty of time to drive this stretch. Any questions—call Chris at (925) 283-4858 evenings.



Saturday-Sunday, April 28-29: Weekend field trip to **New Idria serpentine barrens** in San Benito County led by Bureau of Land Management botanist Julie Anne Hamon. The San Benito-Clear Creek area consists of approximately 30,000 acres of the New Idria serpentine block, and 20,000 non-serpentine, sedimentary soils, each supporting distinct vegetation communities. Nearly 5000 acres of this landscape are striking serpentine barrens that support little vegetation, but what exists there is exceedingly interesting and beautiful. Conservation issues for the area center on off-highway vehicle use. For a sneak preview, check out the article on page 100 of *California's Wild Gardens*. Participants may wish to bring Mary Ann Matthew's *Monterey County Flora*, available through CNPS. The

(Continued on back page)

Unusual and Significant Plants

The sixth edition of *Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* is now available. This report, compiled by the Rare Plant Committee, deals with locally rare native plants, as well as statewide rare plants that occur in our Chapter area, and ranks them according to their rarity and endangerment. This publication has been praised as a valuable tool in local land planning and management. It offers a wealth of information for amateur and professional botanists. Several smaller related reports are also available this year. To order, fill out the form below.

- _____ *Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* (\$15)
- _____ *Habitats of Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* (\$7)
(Plants listed by habitat, with species, rank and habitat, but no locations)
- _____ *Regions of Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties* (\$10)
(A and B-ranked plants by regions, with species and rank, but no habitats or specific sites. Lists are also available for each region at \$3/region, except Diablo, which is \$5. These individual lists consist of species, rank and habitat, but no specific sites.)
- _____ *Unusual and Significant Plants of Alameda County* (\$5)
(A and B-ranked plants in Alameda Co, with species, rank and habitat, but no specific sites)
- _____ *Unusual and Significant Plants of Contra Costa County* (\$5)
(A and B-ranked plants in Contra Costa County with species, rank and habitat, but no specific sites)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Please make check payable to **California Native Plant Society** and mail to:

Dianne Lake
1050 Bayview Farm Rd. - #121
Pinole, CA 94564

Native Plant Sale at Tilden

The **Friends of the Regional Parks Botanic Garden** will be holding their annual plant sale on Saturday, April 21. The Plant sales requires the assistance of numerous dedicated volunteers. Many of you have helped in the past and hopefully you will be able to help make the year 2001 sale a resounding success.

Starting April 16 through April 20 we will be setting up for the plant sale. This will entail bringing the plants to the sale area, grooming the plants, pricing the plants, and checking the plant labels for accuracy and other minor tasks. This process starts casually on Monday and increases to a maddening crescendo on Thursday afternoon. Friday we will finish the set up, including adding the pictorial plant descriptions. We would appreciate any help you can give us on Monday through Friday. On the day of the sale we need cashiers, people with strong backs to handle the holding area and people with knowledge of the growing of native plants who can help in selling the plants. If you are willing to handle any of these tasks, please let me know so that I can ensure that we have covered all of the bases. Please contact Ron Clendenen (925-631-6614, rclendenen@juno.com) if you have any questions.

International Broom Initiative

The International Broom Initiative (IBI), of which CNPS is a founding member, is moving forward with plans for an international consortium to conduct a program of biological control on the group of woody leguminous pest plants that includes the brooms (approx. 6-7 species in several genera) and gorse. There is great advantage to tackling all of these closely-related plants at once, because there may be some overlap in natural predators; an additional efficiency is provided by pooling several nations' funds for the overseas portion of the research. The United States share of the multi-year program is \$265,000 annually. The IBI is asking Senator Barbara Boxer and Congressman Mike Thompson of the north coast to introduce a bill to fund this research program. It is important that legislators know there is broad support for the program. Please write to them, even if you are not in Thompson's district, expressing support for this program and cc your representative. Additional information about the IBI can be found on the CalEPPC website: www.caleppc.org, or you can contact me.

It would also be helpful to have county Boards of Supervisors pass resolutions of support for IBI, as that gives the issue cachet and greater visibility, and it will help motivate legislators. Please contact me (338 Ortega St., San Francisco CA 94122, 415-731-3028, jsigg@slip.net) for sample wording for such a resolution.

. . . Jake Sigg, CNPS Invasive Exotics Chair

2001 Board of Directors

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CNPS Home Page: [http:// www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

East Bay Chapter CNPS Home Page:

[http:// www.ebcnps.org](http://www.ebcnps.org)

Chapter CNPS-EB-Alerts E-mail List

Find out more; email to listserv@usobi.org with:

INFO CNPS-EB-ALERTS

All area codes are 510 unless noted



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New Membership Application

The California Native Plant Society is open to all. The mission of the California Native Plant Society is to increase understanding and appreciation of California's native plants and to preserve them in their natural habitat through scientific activities, education, and conservation. Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly journal *Fremontia*.

Name _____

Address _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

I wish to affiliate with:

___ East Bay Chapter (Alameda and Contra Costa Counties)

___ Other _____

Mail application and check to:

Membership Chairman, California Native Plant Society, 1722 JSt., Suite 17, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Membership category:

___ Student, Retired, limited income, \$20

___ Individual, Library, \$35

___ Household, Family, or Group, \$45

___ Supporting, \$75

___ Plant lover, \$100

___ Patron, \$250

___ Benefactor, \$500

___ Life, \$1000

Native Plant Restoration Activities

The Team had a lovely afternoon on Feb. 3 in Gwin Canyon, working on the Chilean Mayten (*Mytenus boaria*) infestation there. Please join us on Saturday, March 3 for a fun, interesting and rewarding day at a new site: Arrowhead Marsh. Absolutely NO poison oak, I promise. We are teaming up with Save the Bay (Thanks to Marilyn Latta) to work on this rich and beautiful place, where seven of Oakland's creeks join the Bay. The Team will support efforts to enhance and restore the native salt marsh plants by removing noxious, invasive perennial peppergass and fennel from the shoreline. This will be a great chance to bone up on your marsh and shoreline plant ID! Be prepared for fabulous bird watching. The last time I was there I saw enormous, graceful bat rays swimming within a foot or two of the shoreline, and the estuary was filled with anchovies.

Note that we are now back on our morning schedule: Meet at 10 a.m. at Native Here Nursery on Saturday, March 3, or on site at 11 a.m. *Directions:* Take I-880 towards the Oakland Airport. Exit at Hegenberger Rd., go west towards the airport. Turn right on Doolittle Dr., right before the airport entrance. Turn right on Swan, the first light. Look for a large brown "Arrowhead Marsh" East Bay Regional Park District sign on your left, turn left down dirt road and follow it to the end. Park in parking lot next to large observation structure. We will meet here. Wear pants and a long sleeved shirt, sturdy shoes (rubber boots would be appropriate, though Save the Bay has 25 pairs if you don't); bring lunch, a water bottle and rain coat just in case. We have gloves and tools to lend. Heavy rain cancels; call 840-9367 if the sky is threatening.

On April 7 we return to Gwin Canyon; May 5 is a joint day with Friends of Orinda Creeks, June 2 is Skyline Serpentine Prairie, July 7 is Mitchell Canyon/Mt. Diablo. Mark your calendars! For a monthly Team email update, please send a note to casartunda@aol.com.

. . . Noah Booker

Field Trips

(Continued from page 3)

field trip will go up to 5,200 feet elevation, so bring layered clothing. Rain is a remote possibility. Jake Sigg of Yerba Buena Chapter recommends 4-wheel drive or other vehicles with high clearance, and participants may wish to share rides. The campground for Saturday is primitive, and does not have water or toilets. There are no stores along the field trip route, so bring ample water and food. The Friday campsite will be at Fremont Peak State Park, which is not primitive, or meet Saturday, April 28 at 9 a.m. at the BLM Field Office in Hollister, at 20 Hamilton Court. Participants driving south on 101 from San Jose should take the Hwy. 25 exit (which will also read Pinnacles). Go approximately 11 miles on Hwy. 25, and then turn left onto Highway 156, which will be the first traffic light. From 156, turn right onto San Felipe Road, and then left on Fallon, which is at the industrial area across from the small airport. From San Felipe Road, go right on Shelton about 2 blocks, and then left on Hamilton Court at the end of Shelton. The BLM Office will be on the left, and is the only building in that area. Meet Julie Anne Hamon in the parking lot. The building is closed on Saturdays, but restrooms are available. For further questions on hotels, campgrounds, or other logistics, call Julie Anne Hamon at (831) 630-5028 (W) or (831) 623-4452 (H).

Wanted: Our Chapter would like your suggestions for upcoming field trip and survey locations. Especially sought are locations in rapidly developing areas (such as the Tri-Valley Livermore Area) and access to lands that are normally restricted (private or otherwise inaccessible). We are particularly curious about reports of vernal pools and *Downingia* near Pleasanton. If you have suggestions, leads, or contacts, please contact Tony Morosco at tony-morosco@calflora.org or 528-5426.

**California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
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Berkeley, CA 94705**

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